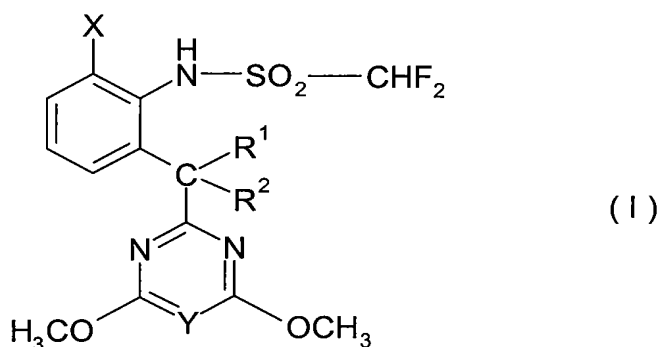


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1) 1. (Currently amended) ~~Novel difluoromethanesulfonamide derivatives~~
~~represented by~~ A compound of the formula (I)



wherein

X represents halogen,

Y represents CH or N,

R¹ represents hydrogen, and

R² represents hydrogen or hydroxy, or

R¹ and R² together with the carbon atom to which they are ~~bonded~~ may attached
form C=O.

2) 2. (Currently amended) ~~Compounds set forth in Claim 1~~ A compound
according to claim 1, wherein

X represents fluorine or chlorine,

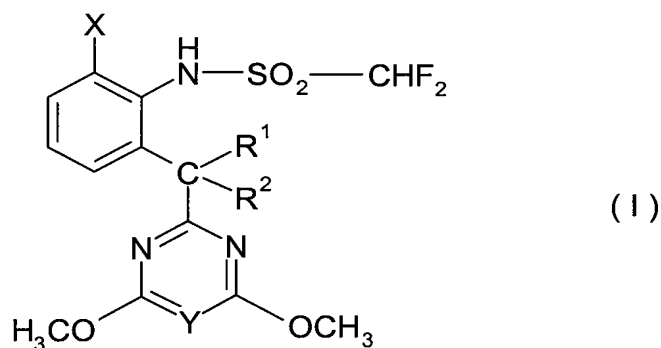
Y represents CH or N,

R¹ represents hydrogen, and

R² represents hydrogen or hydroxy, or

R^1 and R^2 together with the carbon atom to which they are ~~bonded~~ may attached form C=O.

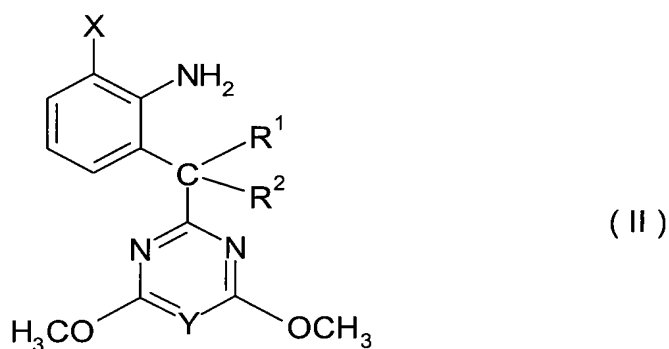
3) 3. (Currently amended) A process for preparing ~~the compounds~~ a compound of the formula (I) according to claim 1,



wherein

X, Y, R^1 and R^2 ~~are defined~~ are defined as in claim 1,
~~characterized in that comprising,~~

a) ~~compounds~~ reacting a compound of the formula (II)

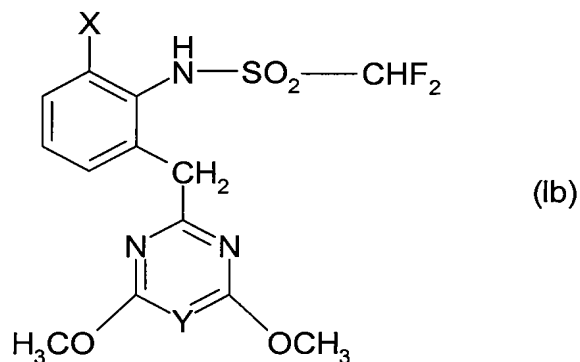


wherein

X, Y, R^1 and R^2 have the same definition as aforementioned,
~~are reacted~~ with difluoromethanesulfonyl chloride in the presence of an inert solvents
solvent, and if ~~appropriate~~ optionally, in the presence of an acid binding agent,
or

- b) ~~in case that~~ when R^1 and R^2 together form $C=O$ with the carbon atom to which they are attached:

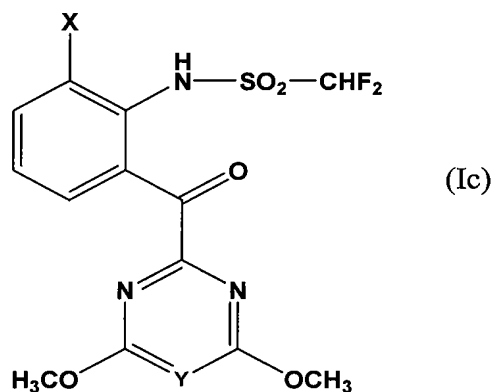
~~compounds~~ reacting a compound of the formula (Ib)



wherein

X and Y have the same definition as aforementioned,
~~are reacted~~ with an oxidizing agent in the presence of an inert solvents-solvent, and if
~~appropriate~~ optionally, in the presence of an acid catalyst,
or

- c) ~~in case that~~ when R^1 represents hydrogen, and R^2 represents hydroxy:
~~compounds~~ reacting a compound of the formula (Ic)



wherein

X and Y have the same definition as aforementioned,
~~are reacted~~ with an alkali metal hydride complex compound or a borane complex
in the presence of an inert solvents-solvent.

4) 4. (Currently amended) ~~Herbicidal compositions, characterized in that they~~
~~contain~~ A herbicidal composition comprising at least one compound of the formula (I)
according to claim 1.

5) 5. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for combating paddy field weeds,
~~characterized in that~~ comprising, contacting a paddy field weed or its habitat with at least
one compound of the formula (I) according to claim 1, ~~is allowed to act on paddy field~~
~~weeds and/or their habitat.~~

6) 6. (Cancelled)

7) 7. (Currently amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the preparation of ~~herbicidal~~
~~compositions~~ a herbicidal composition, ~~characterized in that~~ comprising, mixing a
compound of the formula (I) according to claim 1 ~~is mixed with extenders and/or~~
~~surface active agents.~~ one or more extenders or one or more surface active agents, or a
combination of one or more extenders and one or more surface active agents.